Tuesday, February 21, 2012

2012 Older Americans Month: *Never Too Old to Play.*
For more information and downloadable materials, go to
http://www.aoa.gov/aoaroot/Press_Room/Observances/2012/Older_Americans.aspx

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HHS Ensures Consumers Get Better Value for Their Health Insurance Dollar

Administration actions saved consumers up to $323 million

Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius recently announced that consumers will soon begin receiving unprecedented information on the value of their health insurance coverage, and some will receive rebates from insurance companies that spend less than 80 percent of their premium dollars on health care.

The Affordable Care Act requires that insurance companies this year begin notifying customers how much of their premiums they have spent on medical care and quality improvement. Beginning in 2011, insurers were required to spend at least 80 percent of total premium dollars they collect on medical care and quality improvement. Insurance companies that do not meet the 80/20 standard (also known as the Medical Loss Ratio) are required to pay rebates to their customers this year.

To learn more, go to
http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2012pres/02/20120216b.html

Health Care Fraud Prevention and Enforcement Efforts Result in Record-Breaking Recoveries Totaling Nearly $4.1 Billion
Largest Sum Ever Recovered in Single Year

Attorney General Eric Holder and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius recently released a new report showing that the government's health care fraud prevention and enforcement efforts recovered nearly $4.1 billion in taxpayer dollars in Fiscal Year (FY) 2011. This is the highest annual amount ever recovered from individuals and companies who attempted to defraud seniors and taxpayers or who sought payments to which they were not entitled.

The findings, noted in the annual Health Care Fraud and Abuse Control Program (HCFAC) report, are a result of President Obama making the elimination of fraud, waste and abuse a top priority in his administration. The success of this joint Department of Justice and HHS effort would not have been possible without the Health Care Fraud Prevention & Enforcement Action Team (HEAT). Created in 2009, HEAT was launched to prevent fraud, waste and abuse in the Medicare and Medicaid programs, and to crack down on the fraud perpetrators who are abusing the system and costing American taxpayers billions of dollars. These efforts to reduce fraud will continue to improve with the new tools and resources provided by the Affordable Care Act.

To read more, go to
http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2012pres/02/20120214a.html

The HCFAC annual report can be found at
http://oig.hhs.gov/publications/hcfac.asp

For more information on the joint DOJ-HHS Strike Force activities, go to
http://www.StopMedicareFraud.gov/

For more information on the fraud prevention accomplishments under the Affordable Care Act go to
http://www.healthcare.gov/news/factsheets/2012/02/medicare-fraud02142012a.html

Funding Opportunity

2012 Administration on Aging SMP Funding Opportunity

The Administration on Aging is announcing a funding opportunity for Senior Medicare Patrol Program (SMP) projects for the next three years. The eligible states/territories are: Alabama, California, Connecticut, Guam, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Virgin islands, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

SMP projects recruit retired professionals as volunteer resources to Medicare beneficiaries, their families and caregivers about how to prevent, detect and report health care fraud, error and abuse in the Medicare program.

The application deadline is 11:59 pm March 19, 2012.

For more information on the Senior Medicare Patrol Program (SMP) and to review the program announcement, go to
http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Grants/Funding/docs/2012/FY_2012_SMP_PA.pdf

Funding Opportunity Reminders

AHRQ FOA: Building the Science of Public Reporting

The Department of Health and Human Services Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality solicits applications that propose to build the scientific evidence base for effective public reporting for consumers through innovative, actionable studies that address pressing questions in the field.

Letters of Intent Deadline: February 27, 2012

Application Deadline: March 28, 2012

To learn more about this FOA and to download the application, go to http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=tgLpPpQSwkt5RpYrG4vBTkjSNydjcKSHsJ2S0NLysWzr2fLMq6ms!1368593367?oppId=139273&mode=VIEW

HRSA FOA: Housing Counseling Training Program

Funds are available through the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to provide training activities designed to improve and standardize the quality of counseling provided by housing counselors employed by agencies participating in the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Housing Counseling Program.

The last day to apply is March 5, 2012**.**

To read the full announcement and to download the application, go to http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=wKDtPN6PQN4C5YLTZWZncLQLmdYynfrQbW3yyXttcjSktB6xWnWY!347337819?oppId=137033&mode=VIEW

HHS Health IT Challenge

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) new health IT challenge, *Discharge Follow-Up Appointment Care Transitions Challenge*challenging software developers to create an easy-to-use web-based tool that will make post-discharge follow-up appointment scheduling a more effective and shared process for care providers, patients and caregivers.

Total Prizes for this challenge is $5,000 + extras. The deadline is April 30th.

To learn more about the *Discharge Follow-Up Appointment Care Transitions Challenge*, go to http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2012pres/01/20120126b.html

Connections for Cardiovascular Health Accepting Grant Applications

The AstraZeneca HealthCare Foundation is accepting applications for the 2012 Connections for Cardiovascular Health program. Launched in 2010, the program seeks to improve cardiovascular health within the United States and its territories. In 2011, the program awarded more than $3.6 million in grants to over twenty organizations working to improve cardiovascular health in their communities.

The application deadline is March 15, 2012.

For complete program guidelines and to download the online application form, go to http://www.astrazeneca-us.com/foundation/

Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative Grants

For the second round of the Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative (VTCLI) grant program, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is making $25 million of Section 5309 Bus and Bus Facilities funds, as well as approximately $5 million of Section 5312 Research Program funds available. FY 2012 VTCLI grants can consist of two separate awards.

Each applicant may request up to $2 million in 5309 funds for One-Call/One-Click Transportation Resource Center capital costs and Up to $50,000 in 5312 funds for support costs such as marketing, outreach and coordinated planning to demonstrate the successful implementation of a One-Call/One-Click Center. Requests for S5312 funding will not be considered without a S5309 capital project proposal.

The application deadline is 11:59pm April 19, 2012.

For more information on the Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative, including eligibility and evaluation criteria, a list of the previously selected projects and instructions on how to apply, go to please visit the VTCLI webpage: http://www.fta.dot.gov/veterans

In addition, the National Resource Center on Human Services Transportation Coordination (NRC) has created a Veterans Transportation Bookshelf with a wealth of resources including a "Military Community Transportation Needs Overview."

Stay Informed

ACA Webinar on *Million Hearts*

On Tuesday, February 28, the Administration on Aging (AoA) will continue its series of webinars focused on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 (also known as the Affordable Care Act, or ACA) and its impact on the aging network, this month with a focus on health promotion and disease prevention.

Title: Million Hearts

Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. Eastern

Description:

Heart disease and stroke are two of the leading causes of death in the United States. The good news is that many of the major risk factors for these conditions can be prevented and controlled. This month we look at two programs focused on this important work. First, Million Hearts™ Campaign is a national initiative that was launched by the US Department of Health and Human Services in September 2011 to prevent 1 million heart attacks and strokes over five years. Next, we'll spotlight an AoA-funded chronic disease self-management program in Florida that is working with a hospital starting a chronic disease outpatient clinic that targets people with high levels of cardiovascular disease and frequent hospitalizations.

Speakers:

Jackie Leboeuf, Baptist Hospital, Miami, FL

Martha Pelaez, Health Foundation of South Florida, Miami, FL

Janet Wright, Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Baltimore, MD

Moderator:

Marisa Scala-Foley, Administration on Aging

To register for the online event
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1. Go to https://aoa-events.webex.com/aoa-events/onstage/g.php?d=935271758&t=a

2. Click "Register".
3. On the registration form, enter your information and then click "Submit".

Once your registration is approved, you will receive a confirmation email message with instructions on how to join the event.

Please note: Space is limited, so please register as early as possible. This webinar will also be recorded and posted on the AoA website (http://www.aoa.gov/Aging_Statistics/Health_care_reform.aspx) soon after the webinar.

Forum on Innovations in Care Coordination

Title: *Rethinking the Role of Home Care Workers*

Date: Thursday, March 1, 2012

Time: 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon ET

Site: Room 106, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

PHI (Paraprofessional Healthcare Institute) and SEIU (Service Employees International Union) invite you to join them for a discussion and exploration about innovative ways home care workers can help improve the delivery of long-term services and supports.

The forum will include perspectives from:

- Individuals and Families
- Home Care Workers
- Home Care Providers
- National Policy Makers
- Nationally Recognized Health Care Experts

Together, participants and panelists will explore the potential for home care workers to:

- Take on additional care responsibilities
- Contribute as a proactive member of the healthcare team
- Help achieve the goals of better care at lower costs.

To register, go to https://www.seeuthere.com/rsvp/invitation/registration.asp?id=/m9896a0-1JW9SBK9K8VFQ

To learn more about PHI, go to http://phinational.org/

To learn more about SEIU, go to http://www.seiu.org/

Health Care Conference Call

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Partnership Center is continues its series of interactive conference calls discussing the benefits and provisions of the health care reform law. All calls are open to the public and include a question and answer session where participants can ask HHS staff any questions they may have about the Affordable Care Act. Participants are encouraged to submit questions via email to ACA101@hhs.gov

To participate in the February conference call, click on the date below and enter your email address to be registered. Call-in information will be sent to registered callers 24 hours in advance of the calls.

February 28, 2:00 pm EST – *ACA 101 (in Spanish)*

Webinar Reminders

Online Services from Social Security - in Spanish!

The Social Security Administration will present information about online services offered in Spanish and give you an opportunity to ask questions during a live interactive broadcast.

Date: Thursday, February 23, 2012

Time: 2:00 p.m. EST

To register for the webinar, go to
http://www.ssa.gov/webinars/onlineservicesespanol.html

Links to all of the applications to be discussed during the webinar are available at http://www.socialsecurity.gov/espanol/

Community Organizing Webinar Series

Hear from expert community organizers and learn more about identifying, developing and empowering leadership through organizing concepts, tools and strategies. Participation is free and does not require pre-registration.

Date: February 23, 2012

Time: 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm ET

Call-in Information:

Number: 866-639-0744

Webex Link: https://qualitynet.webex.com

Password: Community

The series is sponsored by the Colorado Foundation for Medical Care. To learn more about this organization, go to http://www.cfmc.org/integratingcare/Default.htm

Accessible Transportation Webinar

The webinar *Connecting Centers for Independent Living (CILs) and Mobility Managers to Enhance Accessible Transportation* will provide an overview of the Mobility Management Independent Living (MMIL) program, developed by Easter Seals Project ACTION (ESPA) in partnership with the Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living and the National Council on Independent Living (CIL). Through the program, CIL professionals and mobility managers collaborate to strengthen relationships between their groups and raise awareness of the issues people with disabilities face as they seek the transportation they need.

Presenters will share information about strategies that help to establish and foster strong relationships between the partners. In addition, they will offer suggestions on ways organizations, mobility managers and transportation professionals can replicate the MMIL program.

Date: Wednesday, February 29

Time: 2:00 p.m. ET

Host: Easter Seals Project ACTION

To register, visit:
http://www.easterseals.com/site/Calendar/320323035?view=Detail&id=37286

Tools & Information

Job Opening at AoA

The Administration on Aging (AoA) is advertising for the position of Nutritionist (Job Announcement Number: HHS-AOA-DE-12-606219) in the Office of Home and Community-Based Services, Center for Program Operations. This position is located in Washington DC and has a full promotion potential to GS 13. The vacancy is open to **all sources**.

The application deadline is Monday, March 12, 2012.

To read the full job announcement, including qualification requirements and job responsibilities, click on http://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/309647800 at the USAJobs website.

AoA's February Widget Focuses on Heart Health

February is American Heart Month and February's widget offers information on heart disease and older Americans, including steps older adults can take to prevent heart disease. You'll also learn about the Million Hearts™ Campaign, a national initiative to prevent 1 million heart attacks and strokes over the next five years. You can view AoA's statistics widget at http://www.aoa.gov/AoAroot/Site_Utilities/Widget/index.aspx. If you want to add AoA's widget to your site or blog, click the "share" button on the widget and the code of the widget will display.

AoA's social media also includes e-cards with tips on healthy eating, exercising and volunteering. You can view all of AoA's e-cards and select an e-card for a friend at http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/Social_Media/eCards/index.aspx.

Connect with AoA on Twitter, Facebook and YouTube! AoA is now tweeting about aging issues and resources. You can follow us by visiting our Twitter page at http://www.twitter.com/aoagov. AoA also has a Facebook page at http://www.facebook.com/aoa.gov and a channel on YouTube at http://www.youtube.com/user/AoA25 . Please click the "Like" button for us on Facebook and view and share our videos on YouTube.

If you have any questions or comments on our social media content, feel free to contact Augustina.Howe@aoa.hhs.gov.

New Health Care Law Helps Expand Primary Care Physician Workforce

National Health Service Corps awards $9.1 million to place physicians in medically underserved communities

The National Health Service Corps (NHSC) awarded $9.1 million in funding to medical students in 30 States and the District of Columbia who will serve as primary care doctors and help strengthen the health care workforce. Making the recent announcement, Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius stated "This new program is an innovative approach to encouraging more medical students to work as primary care doctors. This is an important part of the Administration's commitment to building the future health care workforce."

The funds were made possible by the Affordable Care Act. The National Health Service Corps' Students to Service Loan Repayment Program provides financial support to fourth year medical students who are committed to a career in primary care in exchange for their service in communities with limited access to care.

To learn more, go to
http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2012pres/02/20120213a.html

For more information about NHSC programs, go to http://www.NHSC.hrsa.gov

Call for Presentations

The Missouri Association of Area Agencies on Aging (MA4) invites you to submit a proposal to present at the *Annual Show Me Summit on Aging and Health*, Missouri's only statewide conference on aging. The conference is host to 350 attendees and more than 50 exhibitors. This year's conference will be held on August 22-24, 2012 at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Jefferson City, Missouri.

The MA4 Conference Committee will review all proposals. Topics must address the conference theme, "Aging, Awareness and Advocacy – Let's Stand Together." The proposal must also address the target audience and challenge attendees to think creatively.

Evaluation criteria includes:

- Have potential for implementation across the state
- Be clear, focused, well organized and designed to be interactive
- Feature experienced speakers with significant expertise
- Priority will be given to innovative ideas

You will be notified by April 30, 2012 of your session's acceptance.

For additional information you may contact MA4 Executive Director Catherine Edwards at cedwards@ma4web.org.

Tax Preparation Time – A Time to Talk about *Go Direct*

If you represent a tax preparation site or coalition, it's not too late to include information about the *Go Direct* campaign in your activities. Tax preparation volunteers meeting with seniors, people with disabilities and others are in the perfect position to tell them that they are now required by the Treasury

Department to switch from paper federal benefit checks to electronic payments. Volunteers can help them make the switch online at http://www.GoDirect.org or by calling (800) 333-1795.

Free materials, including a reference guide for volunteers, are available for your use. For more information, visit http://www.GoDirect.org or call a campaign representative at (952) 346-6055.

Three New PHI Reports on Home Care Workers

PHI (Paraprofessional Healthcare Institute) recently released three reports that impact the home care workforce.

Can Home Care Companies Manage Overtime Hours? - Three Successful Models profiles three agencies—Community Care Systems in Illinois; Addus HealthCare, a nationwide company and Cooperative Home Care Associates in New York City—all of which pay their aides time and a half for overtime. These three companies have differing case loads, service areas and business models, yet all three have implemented similar staffing and scheduling practices to maintain continuity of care for clients while keeping overtime hours within a manageable budget.

To download the full report, go to http://www.directcareclearinghouse.org/download/overtime-casestudies-20120209.pdf

Home Care Jobs: The Straight Facts on Hours Worked is an analysis of national surveys on overtime work by home care employees.

To download the full report, go to http://phinational.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/phi-value-the-care-06.pdf

The four-page *Growing Home Care Industry Can Afford Basic Labor Protections for Workers* report gives an assessment of the salary and service in the home care industry, one of the fastest-growing industries in the country.

To download the full report, go to http://phinational.org/policy/wp-content/uploads/phi-value-the-care-05.pdf

Observances

February Observances

African American History Month

Association for Study of African American Life and History

http://www.asalh.org/aboutasalhmain.html

American Heart Month

American Heart Association

http://www.heart.org/HEARTORG/

Low Vision Awareness Month

Prevent Blindness America

http://www.preventblindness.org/about-us

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